CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Wicked City

Other known title(s): Yôjû Toshi

OFLC ref: 0900861.000

Medium: DVD

Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Director: Yoshiaki Kawajiri

Producer: Kenji Kurada
Makoto Sedani

Country of origin: Japan

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Contains violence, sexual violence and sex scenes.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 05 October 2009

Date of direction to issue a label: 02 October 2009

	Components	**Running time**
Menu:	Play Feature Set-up Language Select Scenes Explore Extras	
Feature(s):	Wicked City	85:09
Timed component(s):	Wicked City (Trailer)	1:28

	Street Fighter Alpha Blood: The Last Vampire Kawajiri Interview Notices	1:06 1:02 13:55 0:10
Untimed component(s):	Character Profiles Notice	
Total running time:		102:50

Summary of reasons for decision:

Wicked City was originally classified as a film by the Chief Censor of Films on 28 July 1994 and given a RP16 rating with no descriptive note. This classification is equivalent to a modern M rating according to Schedule 4 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994. The Film and Video Labelling Body accordingly issued an M rating for this title with the descriptive note "contains sex scenes". The film is restricted in other jurisdictions and the Chief Censor considers the current rating inconsistent with overseas ratings. Consequently the Chief Censor directed the Secretary of Internal Affairs to submit this publication for classification on 5 June 2009 under s13(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act).

The feature on the DVD is a stylish and influential Japanese anime horror/fantasy containing highly symbolic and fantastical sexual themes. Children and young persons are not likely to be at a developmental stage with the experience or maturity required to deal with the candid sexual presentations. Complex sexual themes are interwoven into the story and include depictions of rape as a means of control and power. Other acts of violence also contain elements of cruelty. Taken out of context these presentations are likely to adversely influence impressionable young persons. The symbolism will be more appreciated by an older audience. Therefore the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to an adult audience.
Considerations under s3 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 have been weighed against the relevant provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Given the manner, extent and degree in which the publication deals with matters of sex and violence a limit on its availability to adults is considered to be a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable restriction. A limitation on the publication's availability is the minimum restriction that can be applied in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.